

Transport Buses.

195. *MR. V. MADHAVAN : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of leakage of water in Transport buses at the time of rains?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Yes. Adequate measures commensurate with the availability of materials are being taken to prevent leakage.

Schedule of rates of charges in the State Transport Department.

196. *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any schedule of rates of charges published by the State Transport Department for the transport of parcels and goods; if so, what it is;

(b) whether any rate of charges is also fixed for loading and unloading parcels and goods; if so, what it is; and

(c) whether the loading and unloading charges are realised by the department along with the charges for the transport of parcel and goods?

MR. E. G. SALTER : (a) Yes. A *copy of the schedule is laid on the table.

(b) Yes, 4 cash per 28 lbs. per one loading or unloading subject to a minimum of 8 cash.

(c) No. The charges are paid to the porters direct or through Parcel Agents.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Sir, with reference to answer to part (c) will the Director be pleased to examine the receipts issued. There is a column in the receipts. Will the Director examine it in the face of this answer?

MR. E. G. SALTER : Sir, the parcel agents are authorised to employ porters for the purpose of loading and unloading for reasons which must be obvious. It is part of their authority that they should collect the charges to be paid to these porters.

Conductors in the State Transport Department.

197. *MR. D. THOMAS (*Kalkulam cum Vilavancode*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of conductors in the State Transport Department and the number of Latin Catholics among them;

(b) the minimum qualification that is being prescribed for the post of conductors;

(c) the date on which recruitment to the post of conductors was done last and the number recruited; and

(d) the number of applications received from Latin Catholics and the number selected from that community?

*vide Appendix 1.